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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2008

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Report Highlights:

Quotations dropped by 10-15 percent this week, as foreign buyers are reportedly expecting relatively cheaper Vietnamese rice to come available next month. However, new purchases of premium white rice will hold at \$800/MT, FOB, as exporters anticipate domestic prices to increase in the coming weeks.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Jun. 2):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,040	-	-	-	1,180	950	-	1,057	1,130
WR 100 B	800	-	-	-	840	740	850	808	858
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	920	750	1,000	890	943
WR 5%	780	-	-	-	820	710	840	788	840
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	570	-	-	-	620	-	700	630	687
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 32 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Quotations dropped by 10-15 percent this week, as foreign buyers are reportedly expecting relatively cheaper Vietnamese rice to come available next month. Despite the reduction in quotation prices, new purchases of premium white rice are holding at \$800/MT, FOB, due to the concern over domestic price fluctuations. Exporters anticipate domestic prices to rebound, despite falling nearly 10 percent in the past week.

Meanwhile, future intervention stock releases are unlikely after last month's release of 1,500 tons. Presently, millers and farmers want the government to hold new harvest intervention prices no lower than 13,000 baht/ton (\$406/MT) in order to stabilize domestic prices at current farm-gate levels. Current white rice farm-gate prices have declined from a peak of 15,000 baht/MT (\$469/MT) of paddy to around 12,000 baht/MT (\$375/MT). However, new harvest supplies are expected to enter the market in late June, and before the government has time to consider implementation of this request.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
APR 13	157,439	193,917	2,659	1,359	95.6
APR 20	85,612	164,306	2,745	1,472	86.5
APR 27	169,952	147,135	2,915	1,608	81.3
MAY 4	135,461	137,116	3,050	1,685	81.0
MAY 11	137,226	132,063	3,188	1,795	77.6
MAY 18	187,581	157,555	3,375	1,902	77.4
MAY 25	174,175	158,611	3,549	2,026	75.2
JUN 1	209,946	177,232	3,759	2,134	76.1

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for May 26 – Jun. 1, 2008 totaled 209,946 tons, up 35,771 tons from the previous week, and up 32,714 tons from the four-week moving average of 177,232 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Jun. 1, 2008 totaled 3,759,368 tons, as compared with 2,134,472 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2008, amounted to 3,254,946 tons, up 66.7 percent from 1,952,388 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of May 12-16, May 19-23, and May 26-30, 2008 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	May 12-16	May 19-23	May 26-30
Weekly sales	187,851	207,927	137,226
4 week sum	700,448	800,077	761,988
4 week mov. avg.	175,112	200,019	190,497
Total weekly sales	3,643,492	3,851,419	3,988,645

End of Report.